

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 263808

13

ORIGIN SS-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /011 R

66611

DRAFTED BY: S/S-O:WEGAN

APPROVED BY: S/S-O:RELTZ

----- 036909

R 300401Z NOV 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USCINCEUR

S E C R E T STATE 263808

EXDIS MILITARY ADDEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

FOLLOWING REPEAT DAMASCUS 2843 ACTION SECSTATE INFO
AMMAN BEIRUT CAIRO TEL AVIV JERUSALEM NEW YORK 29 NOVEMBER.

QUOTE

S E C R E T DAMASCUS 2843

EXDIS

DEPARTMENT PASS USCINCEUR

BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, SY

SUBJECT: SARG SUSPECTS IRAQI SPONSORSHIP OF TUNISIAN HIJACKING
AND BOMBINGS IN DAMASCUS

REF: AMMAN 6828

1. APPRECIATED RECEIVING AMB PICKERING'S REFTEL RELAYING
GOJ REPORTS ON SUBVERSION AND DISAFFECTION IN SYRIA.
HAVE BEEN ABLE DEVELOP SOME FURTHER DETAILS ON TWO OF
INCIDENTS REPORTED THEREIN.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 263808

2. AS REPORTED DAMASCUS 2671 (NOTAL), BOMB EXPLODED AGAINST BRANCH OFFICE OF SYRIAN G-2 NOV 13. THIS WAS FIFTH IN SERIES OF BOMBINGS IN DAMASCUS AND ALEPPO SINCE EARLY AUGUST. I ASKED COS SHIHABI NOV 27 ABOUT STORY OF PALESTINIANS FIRING ON VEHICLES ALONG DAMASCUS-MEZZE ROAD NOV 13 WHICH ALLEGEDLY OCCURRED IN CONJUNCTION BOMBING OF G-2.

3. CAUTIONING THAT ONE MUST NOT CREDIT ALL RUMORS AVAILABLE IN DAMASCUS, SHIHABI SAID THAT THE FIRING INCIDENT WAS SEPARATE EVENT FROM THE BOMBING AND CONSIDERABLY LESS DRAMATIC THAN VERSION I HAD PRESENTED. FIRING INCIDENT DID OCCUR NOV 11 BUT ON HIGHWAY OUT TO AIRPORT NOT ON THE DAMASCUS-MEZZE ROAD. IT INVOLVED A SMALL GROUP OF SYRIAN MILITARY STATIONED AT DAMASCUS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT FOR PERIMETER SECURITY. THESE SOLDIERS HAD LEFT THEIR POSTS AFTER DARK TO INVESTIGATE SUSPICIOUS NOISES IN NEARBY FRUIT ORCHARDS. (NOISES HAD BEEN APPARENTLY CAUSED BY NEARBY RESIDENTS STEALING FRUIT.) SOLDIERS WERE STARTLED BY CAR STOPPING ON AIRPORT ROAD WHOSE DRIVER

MADE, THEY SAY, SUSPICIOUS SIGNAL. SOLDIERS OPENED FIRE WOUNDING TWO PASSENGERS IN CAR. SOLDIERS NOW UNDER ARREST AND UNDERGOING INVESTIGATION.

4. CONCERNING THE BOMBING ITSELF, SHIHABI SAID THAT SARG'S EARLIER HYPOTHESES THAT JABRIL'S PFLP-GC AND SUBSEQUENTLY THAT HABASH' PFLP HAD BEEN BEHIND THE WAVE OF BOMBINGS HAS NOW BEEN DISCARDED. EVIDENCE APPEARS TO POINT TO SPONSORSHIP BY IRAQI GOVERNMENT AT LEVEL OF SADDAM HUSSEIN, WORKING THROUGH INDIVIDUAL PALESTINIAN DISSENTERS SUCH AS ABU NIDAL (SABRI AL-BANNA). SARG NOW HAS UNDER INTERROGATION SEVERAL INDIVIDUALS SUSPECTED OF LINKS TO BAGHDAD IN THIS AFFAIR.

5. SARG ALSO STRONGLY SUSPECTS IRAQI SPONSORSHIP OF LATEST HIJACKING OF BRITISH AIRCRAFT IN TUNIS.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 263808

6. COMMENT: AS NOTED ABOVE, SYRIAN INTELLIGENCE HAS BEEN COMING UP WITH VARIETY OF GUILTY PARTIES OVER RECENT MONTHS IN CONNECTION WITH THE DAMASCUS-ALEPPO BOMBINGS. LACKING INDEPENDENT ACCESS TO EVIDENCE, WE ARE UNABLE TO SAY AT THIS POINT WHETHER THIS LATEST HYPOTHESIS OF IRAQI INVOLVEMENT SHOULD BE TAKEN AS CONCLUSIVE. MURPHY UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BOMBING, AIRCRAFT HIJACKING, ALLEGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE263808
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: O:WEGAN
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740347-1053
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974111/aaaaaafb.tel
Line Count: 114
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: AMMAN 6828
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 JUL 2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <17 MAR 2003 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SARG SUSPECTS IRAQI SPONSORSHIP OF TUNISIAN HIJACKING AND BOMBINGS IN DAMASCUS
TAGS: PINT, PINS, EAIR, SY, IZ, TS, UK
To: USCINCEUR
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005